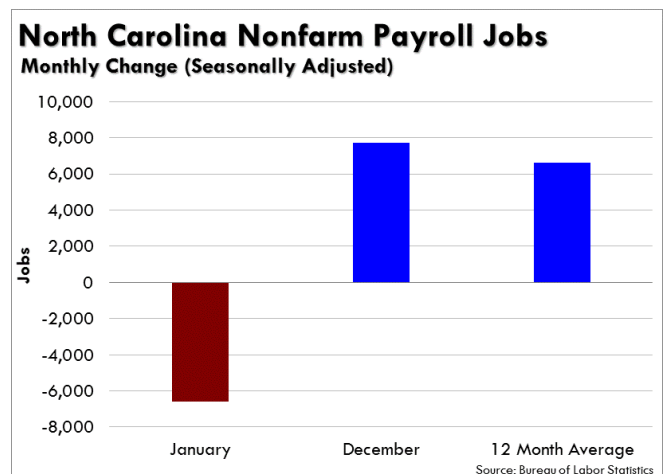
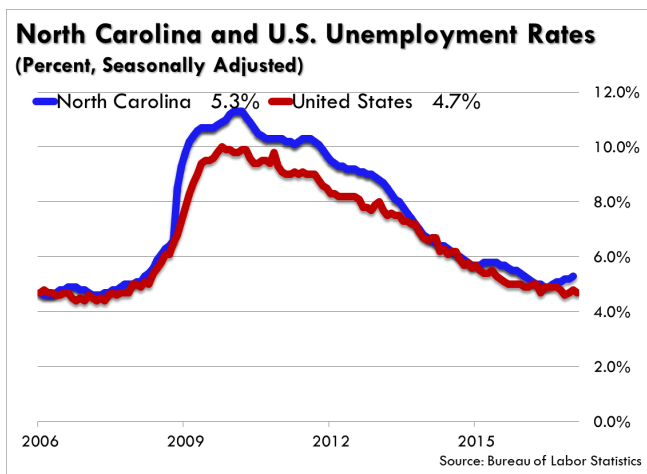


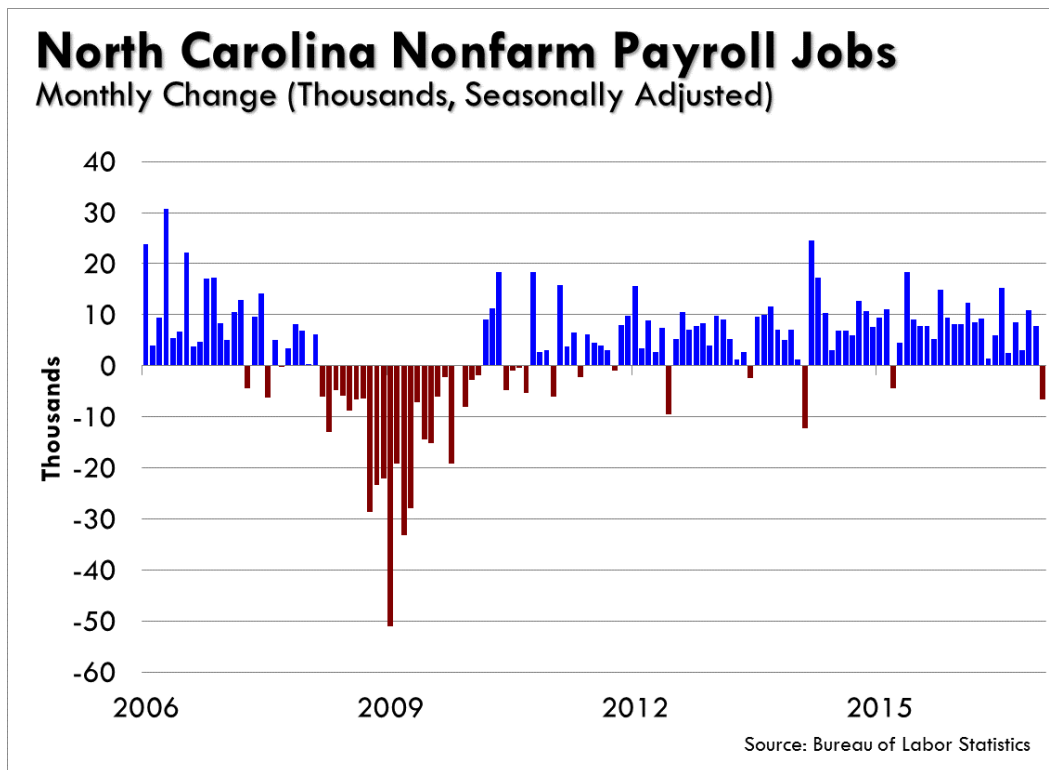


March 14, 2017

Summary

- **North Carolina lost 6,600 jobs and the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point to 5.3 percent in January** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, North Carolina added 79,200 jobs** and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent.
- **In January, North Carolina's private sector lost 1,400 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 71,200 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed North Carolinians rose by 3,298 in January**, and over the past year 98,860 North Carolinians found jobs.
- North Carolina's **labor force participation rate increased to 62.1 percent** from 62 percent in January. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.5 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.7 percent in February**. State employment and unemployment data for February is scheduled for release on March 24, 2017. The national employment situation report for March will be released on Friday, April 7, 2017.





North Carolina Payroll Employment

North Carolina lost 6,600 jobs, or 0.15 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during January. In the prior month, North Carolina added 7,700 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in North Carolina increased by 79,200, or 1.84 percent. North Carolina nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

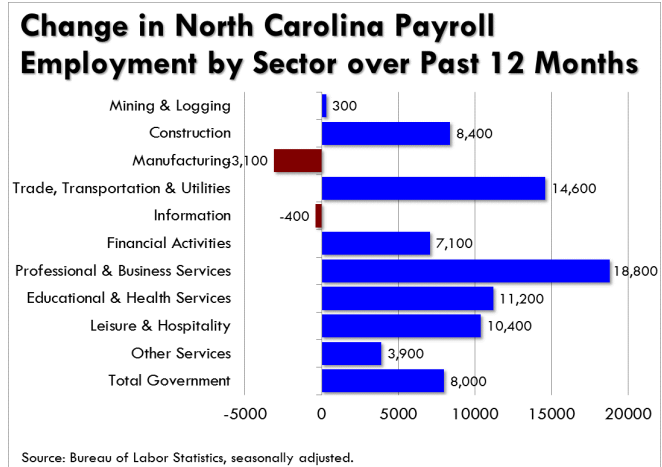
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 235,000 jobs in February, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,350,000 jobs, or 1.64 percent. North Carolina ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, North Carolina's private-sector lost 1,400 jobs, or 0.04 percent. The private-sector in North Carolina added 6,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in North Carolina increased by 71,200, or 1.99 percent. North Carolina private-sector payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 227,000 jobs in February, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,156,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.78 percent. North Carolina ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during January were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+1,800) and Financial Activities (+1,700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-5,200) and Manufacturing (-4,700).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+18,800) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+14,600). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-3,100) and Information (-400).



North Carolina Labor Force Statistics

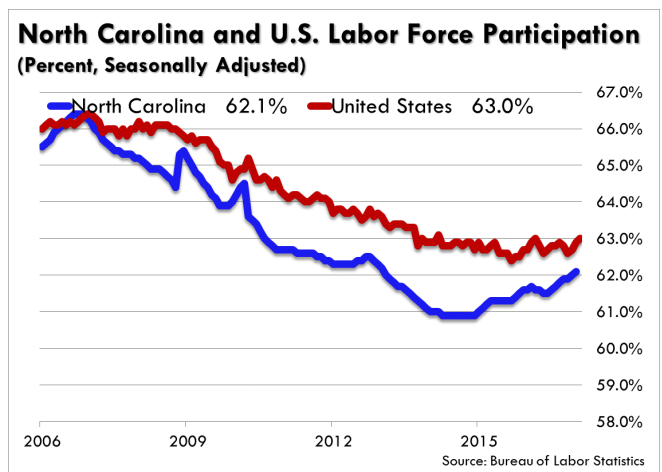
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in North Carolina rose to 62.1 percent in January from 62.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 34 have a higher labor force participation rate than North Carolina. The labor force participation rate in North Carolina is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina was 66.0 percent in February 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.0 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.9 percent in December 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina. The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 63.0 percent in February, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the North Carolina civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 58.8 percent in January from 58.7 percent the prior



month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 35 have higher employment-to-population ratios than North Carolina. The employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina is 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina was 63.0 percent in February 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent in September 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in October 2011 when the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.0 percent in February. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

